

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 DHA-02 BIB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /063 W

-----071113Z 071432 /23

R 051040Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2816

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASY MSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 0929

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CSCE, BU, PINR, SPON, PROP

SUBJECT: BULGARIA LASHES AT EXILES

REF: A) SOFIA 402; B) SOFIA 389

1. SUMMARY: IN FEBRUARY THERE WAS A BRIEF (AND EXAGGET) FURRY OF REPORTS IN WESTERN PRESS ABOUT DISSIDENT ACTIVITIES IN BULGARIA AND GOB REPRESSION. MORE THAN TWO MONTHS LATER THE BULGARIAN PRESS HAS STARTED A CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE MEDIA THAT ORIGINATED THOSE REPORTS AND AGAINST THEIR EXILE SOURCES, TYING THEM IN ALSO WITH RFE. IN OUR OPINION THIS CAMPAIGN ONLY GIVES THE REPORTS ADDITIONAL CIRCULATION. END SUMMARY.

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2. BCP CENTRAL COMMITTEE PAPER RABOTNICHESKO DELO (RD) OF APRIL 7 IN SIGNED ARTICLE RESPONDED FOR FIRST TIME PUBLICLY IN BULGARIA TO REPORTS ABOUT BULGARIAN DISSIDENCE WHICH EMANATED FROM VIENNA, MUNICH, LONDON, AND PARIS IN FEBRUARY (REFS A, B, AND PREVIOUS.) (BULGARIAN TELEGRAPH AGENCY EXTERNAL SERVICE FEB 22-23 HAD CARRIED LENGTHY DENIAL, UNWITTINGLY PRINTED BY AT

LEAST ONE BULGARIAN PROVINCIAL PAPER BUT NEVER CARRIED BY SOFIA  
"NATIONAL" PAPERS.)

3. ARTICL ATTACKED BY NAME STEFAN TABAKOV, ASEN MANDIKOV OF  
RFE, AND DIMITER CHAVDAROV (PRESUMABLY SAME PERSON AS DIMITER  
TSCHABEROV - REF B).

A. TABAKOV IS DESCRIBED AS HAVING LEFT COUNTRY 30 YEARS AGO, AND  
AS CHIEF OF FORMER RFE OFFICE IN VIENNA, PUBLISHER OF  
EMIGRANTS' NEWSPAPER, AND HEAD OF "BULGARIAN SOCIALIST PARTY IN  
EXILE, REPRESENTING ONLY HIS OWN PERSONALITY." ARTICLE STATES  
THAT TABAKOV AND HIS ACTIVITIES ARE "FINANCED BY A WELL-KNOWN  
OVERSEAS AGENCY, ILL-FAMED FOR ITS FLAGRANT INTERFERENCE IN  
INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER "COUNTRIES."

B. MANDIKOV OF RFE/MUNICH IS SAID TO HAVE LEFT BULGARIA IN  
1942. ARTICLE STATES THAT AT THAT TIME HE WAS, AS A STUDENT,  
HEAD OF FASCIST ORGANIZATION "LEGION" AT SECONDARY SCHOOL IN  
PLEVEN. ARTICLE STATES FURTHER THAT MANDIKOV WROTE "PANEGYRICS  
TO HILERISM" IN NEWSPAPER "ZORA," BECAME SPEAKER FOR GERMAN  
RADIO "DONAU" AT GESTAPO RECOMMENDATION, AND, AS GERMAN-  
APPOINTED CHIEF REPRESENTATIVE OF BULGARIAN WORKERS IN BAVARIA  
AND BADEN-WURTEMBERG, COLLABORATED WITH GESTAPO IN PROVIDING  
INFORMATION THAT CAUSED MANY BULGARIAN WORKERS TO BE ARRESTED  
AND MALTREATED.

C. CHAVDAROV IS SAID TO HAVE LEFT BULGARIA 20 YEARS AGO AND  
IS SAID TO BE FOUNDER OF TWO-MEMBER COMMITTEE" CALLED  
"CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE OF FIGHTERS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN BULGARIA."  
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4. ARTICLE ATTACKED IN MORE GENERAL TERMS MEDIA THAT GAVE A  
FORUM TO "PEOPLE NOT ONLY BLINED BY HATRED FOR SOCIALIST  
BULGARIA, BUT ALSO LONG AGO DIVORCED FROM OUR COUNTRY."  
SPECIFICALLY NAMED WERE RFE, AUSTIRAN PAPERS " KURIER" AND  
"DIE PRESSE," AND "ILL-FAMED, ARCHREACTIONARY" FRG PUBLISHING  
COMPANY SPRNGER, ARTICLE WARNED THAT PROVIDING OF FORUM  
TO THESE "TURBID, DIRTY SOURCES OF MISINFORMATION" THREATENED  
PROCESS OF DETENTE, WAS "IN GROSS CONTRADICTION" WITH SPIRIT  
AND LETTER OF CSCE FINAL ACT, AND REPRESENTED AN ATTEMPT AT  
INTERFERENCE IN BULGARIAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

5. COMMENT: GENERAL TIMING AND NATURE OF ATTACK ON RFE  
AND OTHER WESTERN MEDIA ARE CONSISTENT WITH OTHER BULGARIAN  
MEDIA PRE-BELGRADE FULMINATIONS. ATTACK PRECEDES ONLY  
SLIGHTLY APRIL 29 SOVIET PROTEST AGAINST RFE/RL. TIMING AND  
INTENTION OF AD HOMINEM ATTACK ON EXILES, TWO MONTHS AFTER  
FEBRUARY EVENTS, IS LESS COMPREHENSIBLE, COST OF ATTACK

TO GOB IS THAT PRIOR TO THIS ARTICLE MOST BULGARIANS DID NOT  
ADMITTE EXISTENCE OF BULGARIAN SOCIALIST PARTY IN EXILE TO  
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE. ATTACK ON EXILES COMES AT A TIME  
WHEN RUMOR IS MAKING ROUNDS AMONG BULGARIANS  
THAT NEXT YEAR ZHIVKOV WILL PROCLAIM A SWEEPING "COME HOME"  
AMNESTY FOR BULGARIANS IN EXILE TO HONOR 100TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF INDEPENDENCE. PERHAPS GOB IS DEFINING WHO WILL  
NOT BE INCLUDED.  
HERZ

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## Message Attributes

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